



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Regional Water Compliance Managers, Regional Waste Program Managers

FROM: Ellen Gilinsky, Water Quality Division Director
Karen Jackson Sismour, Waste Division Director

DATE: February 26, 2007

COPIES: James Golden, Rick Weeks, Kyle Winter, Marcia Degen, Debbie Miller, Paul Farrell, Shawn Davis

SUBJECT: Grit and Screenings

The Solid Waste Management Regulations establish conditions under which sludge can be landfilled (9 VAC 20-80-250.C.16). DEQ has deemed that grit and screenings do not fall under the definition of 'sludge' and therefore, the stabilization requirement for sludge does not apply to grit and screenings from a wastewater treatment plant. However, improperly maintained or operated grit and screening devices can produce waste that has a higher organic content that can contribute to odors at a landfill. DEQ staff should work with both the wastewater treatment plant and the landfill to ensure proper treatment of this material.

If odor from grit and screenings becomes an issue at a landfill, then the waste inspector should:

1. Remind the landfill that they can reject any load.
2. Work with the landfill on an odor control program, evaluating all sources of odor, and suggesting the facility work with the wastewater treatment plant on proper treatment/handling of the material before it comes to the landfill. When feasible, the landfill and wastewater treatment plant should coordinate the delivery of the grit and screenings so that the grit and screenings can be immediately covered upon its arrival at the landfill.
3. Notify the water inspector or appropriate regional contact (for the contributing wastewater treatment facility) of the odor issue at the landfill.

The water inspector should:

1. Schedule an inspection of the wastewater plant.
2. Inspect the headworks for proper operation and maintenance of the grit and screening removal equipment.
 - a. Any non-functioning equipment, especially wash water equipment, should be noted and the facility should be directed to repair the equipment as soon as possible.
 - b. If all operations and maintenance are within accepted norms, the inspector can suggest additional operational controls to help with odor such as lime addition, increased frequency of disposal, manual washing of the material, and other measures.
 - c. When feasible, the landfill and wastewater treatment plant should coordinate the delivery of the grit and screenings so that the grit and screenings can be immediately covered upon its arrival at the landfill.
3. Report back to the waste inspector as to their findings.